

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

## HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, When I think of Francis Scott Key's The Star-Spangled Banner, the fourth and final stanza of our National Anthem rarely comes to mind. It reads: Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand Between their loved homes and war's desolation;

Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land

Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

As we approach Memorial Day, it is in the spirit of these words that we honor the noble spirit of the brave American men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our nation as they served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Their ultimate sacrifice serves as a constant reminder of the high cost of freedom and our hope for a safer and more peaceful world.

On this day, I would like to acknowledge and remember the soldiers from Georgia who have fallen while serving our nation during the past year.

We Remember: SPC Jamaal Rashard Addison, CPT Tristan Neil Aitken, SPC Marvin Antonio Campo-Siles, SGT Michael Tyron Crockett, SFC Ricky Leon Crockett, SPC Marshall Lane Edgerton, SSG Bobby Charles Franklin, PV2 Benjamin Lee Freeman, SSG Nathaniel Hart, Jr., SPC Christopher James Holland, A1C Antoine Jermaine Holt, SPC Justin Weaver Johnson, SPC Nathaniel Henry Johnson, SPC Kevin John Klinesmith, Jr., CPT Edward Jason Korn, SGT David Terrell Nutt, PFC Diego Fernando Rincon, PFC William Rodriques Strange III, MSG Thomas Ruel Thigpin, Sr., PFC Marquis Antoine Whitaker, and CSM Jerry Lee Wilson.

It is you, our brothers, and our sisters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice—and those who still fight today—who stand between our beloved home, our country, and war's desolation. It is you who will be forever etched in our memory, forever in our hearts, and to whom we will be forever thankful.

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

## HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, every year on the last Monday in the month of May, our Nation gathers together to remember and honor those who have so honorably served our country. We memorialize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and for the values we cherish so deeply.

The sacrifice a soldier makes is always in our hearts and minds, but this Memorial Day we have a special remembrance. This year, in addition to all of those brave men and women who have perished in wars past, we honor the 120 soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom and nearly 800 soldiers in Operation Iraqi

Freedom who have lost their lives. Let us pay special tribute to these soldiers, who served their country with valor, and whose sacrifices we will never forget.

On this day, we also commemorate two important anniversaries nearly upon us. June 6th with mark the 60th anniversary of the D-Day forces landing on the beaches of Normandy. As a result of the bravery, skill, and determination of the heroic Americans who served in World War II, the invasion was successful and led to the eventual destruction of a totalitarian Nazi regime and the liberation of millions of enslaved peoples in Europe. It is fitting that today many of the "Greatest Generation" gather in Washington, D.C. to dedicated the new World War II Memorial on the grounds of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

And June 22nd will mark the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944—what we now know as the GI Bill of Rights. We are reminded this year, by those currently returning from operations abroad and by the anniversary of this celebrated bill, of the importance of caring for our veterans as they return home. The GI Bill of Rights was one of many promises we have made to those serving our country, and one of many we must keep. We must not falter in our promise to provide veterans with quality healthcare upon their return. We must ensure that when veterans pass, their widows—who also sacrifice so much as spouses of our soldiers—receive the benefits they we've promised them. And we must provide the foundation for our veterans to continue leading healthy and productive lives upon their return, in the form of home loans, vocational rehabilitation, educational benefits, and more.

I want to also take time to honor our troops from New Mexico that have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan: Senior Airman Jason Cunningham of Carlsbad; Army Specialist James Pirtle of Carlsbad; Air Force Special Operations pilot Captain Tamara Archuleta of Albuquerque; Marine Private First Class Christopher Ramos of Albuquerque; and Marine Corporal Aaron Austin of Lovington. I want to acknowledge these soldiers on their bravery and for representing not only our country, but also the state of New Mexico. They have truly made their families, their state, and their Nation proud.

Throughout our Nation's history, our armed forces have been on the front lines fighting for our lives with their own. We must never take for granted the freedoms for which they fought, and we will never forget the meaning of the ultimate sacrifice.

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

## HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and privilege for me to participate today in this opportunity for members of the House to pay tribute to fallen heroes across the Nation and in our individual Districts.

It is difficult to find the right words to adequately express the deep respect I have for those who have sacrificed their lives for our great Nation. America would not have been

born, nor would our Nation's citizens enjoy the unparalleled blessings of liberty, freedom, and justice for all, but for the courageous and selfless sense of patriotism of countless men and women throughout America's history such as the fallen heroes we honor today.

These are the names of the heroes, with ties to the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, who gave their lives for us while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan: Army Specialist Ryan G. Carlock; Army Specialist Martin W. Kondor; Army Specialist George A. Mitchell; Navy SEAL Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts; and Army Staff Sergeant Kimberly A. Voelz.

My deepest sympathies go out to the family members and friends of our fallen heroes. I hope all citizens will keep them in our prayers and forever remember the selfless sacrifices that these heroes have made on our behalf.

## FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

## HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as America celebrates Memorial Day, it is important for us to remember those dedicated soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The freedoms we enjoy today are a direct result of the sacrifices made by young men and women throughout our nation. Each generation must renew its commitment to defend our liberties, and a new generation of young Americans are today fighting bravely for freedom's cause. The War on Terrorism has claimed over 750 American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and four of those brave soldiers came from my district in Colorado. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker, Staff Sergeant Mark Lawton, Private First Class Chance Phelps, and Sergeant First Class Randy Rehn. Our nation will long endure due to the strength and character of men and women like these four courageous soldiers who served our country.

Randal Rosacker was the oldest of three children and was known as a born leader. In high school, his teammates voted him captain of the baseball team. Randal had always wanted to become a marine and joined the corps when he turned eighteen, despite scholarship offers to play college football. By doing so, Randal was upholding the finest military traditions of both his family and this nation, and I know Randal's family and friends take pride in the uniform he wore and the ideals for which he fought.

As a young man, Mark Lawton was an excellent athlete and ran track for Moffat County High School. Prior to his service with the Army Reserves, Mark spent fourteen years in the Marine Corps, serving in the first Gulf War. In his civilian life, Mark worked for a local coal company as a heavy equipment operator. Most importantly, he was a family man who leaves behind a wife and two sons. While his family's feelings of loss and sorrow are deep, they can take solace in the fact that Mark died in the service of the people and ideals of our nation.